



Appendix H

Environmental Resources Documentation

This appendix presents the documentation of the natural resources survey and clearance activities that were completed as part of the study. This documentation consists of:

- ◆ Letter dated June 3, 2010, from the Illinois Department of Agriculture, in response to a May 14, 2010 letter from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) providing notice of their intent to prepare an EIS for the 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project (CIP);
- ◆ Memorandum dated June 23, 2010, from the IDOT Bureau of Design and Environment Natural Resources Unit, documenting the review of the project area by that office and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The IDNR Natural Resources Review Tool and the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) mapping covering the project area were consulted in the review.
- ◆ IDOT Bureau of Design and Environment CREATE Environmental Survey Request (ESR) Addendum Biological and Wetland Resources clearance, dated December 16, 2011. This review covered the entire 75th St. CIP ESR area, including the new areas added by the ESR Addendum request of December 7, 2011.
- ◆ IDOT Bureau of Design and Environment update of Biological Resources Review, dated October 8, 2013.
- ◆ IDOT Bureau of Design and Environment ESR Addendum Biological and Wetland Resources clearance, dated January 30, 2014. This review covered the entire 75th St. CIP ESR area, including the new areas added by the ESR Addendum request of January 11, 2014.

Copies of these documents are included in the following pages.



Pat Quinn, Governor
Thomas E. Jennings, Director

Bureau of Land and Water Resources

State Fairgrounds • P.O. Box 19281 • Springfield, IL 62794-9281 • 217/782-6297 • TDD 217/524-6858 • Fax 217/557-0993

June 3, 2010

Mr. Lawrence Wilson
Illinois Department of Transportation
Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 6-600
Chicago, Illinois 60601



Re: 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project
CREATE Program - Reconfigure Tracks
City of Chicago Community Areas
Federal Railroad Administration Funds

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) is in receipt of the May 14, 2010 correspondence which states that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Railroad Administration, will reconfigure freight and Metra tracks to reduce rail conflicts with city streets and other rail lines. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared for the proposed transportation improvements located along the 75th Street Corridor on the south side of Chicago. IDOA comments have been requested pertaining to the information gathering phase for the EIS.

This project involves reconfiguring the tracks of the Belt Railway of Chicago (BRC), Norfolk Southern (NS), CSX, Union Pacific (UP) and Metra's SouthWest Service in the City of Chicago with possible construction of grade separations of rail lines from other rail lines and city streets. Six alternatives are being evaluated to address conflicts between CSX, BRC, UP, NS and Metra in the EIS.

Alternatives under consideration include the No Action and 5 Action (Build) proposals. Associated signals, tracks, crossovers and bridge work are included in the project. Most of the action alternatives being studied will occur entirely within existing rail right-of-way. However, approximately 20-25 homes may be purchased in a low-income, minority residential area under Alternative 5.

Because this project will occur entirely within the urbanized area of Chicago and agricultural land is not involved, it is exempt from further review in accordance with Section 2.c of the IDOA-IDOT Cooperative Working Agreement on the protection of Illinois farmland. The IDOA would consider such an action to be consistent and in compliance with Illinois' Farmland Preservation Act.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Chard, Acting Chief
Bureau of Land and Water Resources

SDC:JL

cc: Agency project file

**Illinois Department of Transportation****Memorandum**

To: George E. Weber
From: Scott E. Stitt By: Thomas C. Brooks *Thomas C. Brooks*
Subject: Biological Resources Review
Date: June 23, 2010

***CREATE**

EW-2, P-2, P-3, GS-19

SW Hwy & Duffy/Western & 75th; Kedzie & 75th/Eggleston & 75th; Western & 82nd/Marquett

Job No.: P-30-004-04 (BDE Seq. No.: 11761)

City of Chicago

Cook County

The BDE Natural Resources Unit and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources have reviewed this project. The project, as described on the Environmental Survey Request form, does not require biological or wetland surveys.

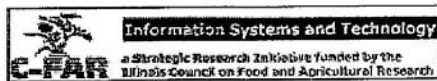
The IDNR Natural Resources Review Tool has no records of any state or federally listed species, natural areas or nature preserves within the project corridor (IDNR NRRT/WIRT report dated June 23, 2010).

This office has reviewed the NWI maps (Englewood, Blue Island and Lake Calumet Quadrangles) and determined that there are no wetlands present in the project corridor. Aerial photography was reviewed to confirm this determination.

By agreement, no coordination with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is necessary.

Attachment: IDNR NRRT/WIRT report

JMV



Wetland Impact Review Tool Report: Report of Possible Resource Conflicts.

Resource in Vicinity of Project Polygon

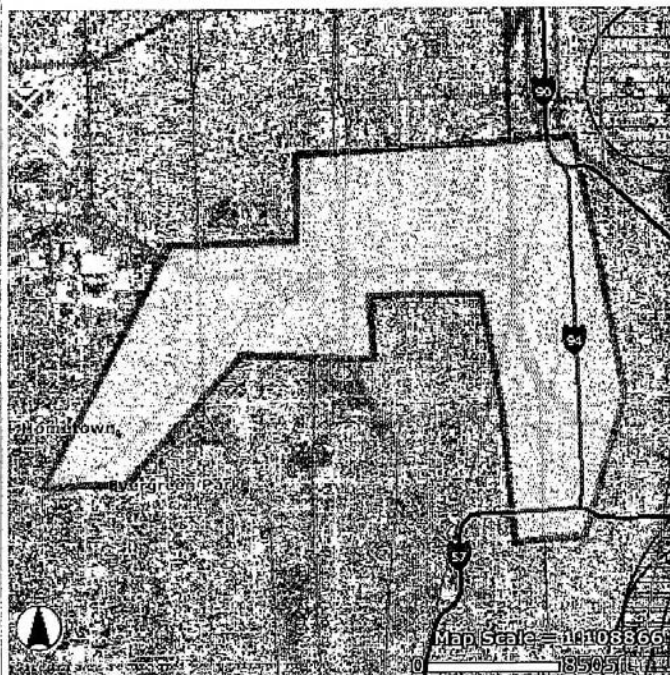
- National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Resource within Buffer No Resource Found

- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Natural Area Inventory
- Nature Preserve/LWR
- Class 3 Ground Water
- ADID Wetlands

County: COOK.
Section (PLSS):
338N14E31.

**Area: 15.18 square
miles = 9774.288
acres**



Report generated by: Janel Veile

Wed Jun 23 09:15:43 CDT 2010

Attention: Central Office BD&E
Environment Section
Room 330

Chicago Region Environmental & Transportation
Efficiency (CREATE) Project

Environmental Survey Request Addendum

A. Project Information ☒ Bio ☒ Cultural ☒ Wetlands ☐ Special Waste

Submittal Date: 12/07/2011 Sequence No: 11761 A
District: 1 Requesting Agency: Other BRR Project Identifier: EW2-P2
Contract #: Job No.: P- 30-004-04
County: Cook
Route: Marked:
Street: 75th Street CIP Section: EW2-P2-P3-GS19
Municipality(ies): Chicago, Hometown Project Length: 23.014 km 14.3 miles
From/To (At): SW Hwy & Duffy/Western & 75th; Kedzie & 75th/Egleston & 75th; Western & 82nd/2200 W 65th; **
Quadrangle: Englewood; Blue Island; Lake Calumet Township-Range-Section: Multiple (15), See Attachment.
Anticipated Design Approval: 03/17/2013

B. Reason for Submittal: (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Acquisition of additional ROW or easement Addendum: acres Total Project: 2.180 acres
☐ In-Stream Work Stream Name:
☒ Other: Expanded ESR limits outside the original area surveyed. Requesting biological clearance update for entire project limits, and three bridges/viaducts will be worked on.
☐ Field Sign Off (Bio & Cultural Only)

C. Addendum Description: The ESR limits are being extended north to 65th St along the CSX rail line, within a portion of Hamilton Park & along many cross-streets where road/sidewalk work could be included as a part of viaduct-related work. ****

D. Tree Removal?: Yes Number?: 0 ha/ acres

Wetland delineation performed by: End. Species Consultation performed by:

E. Contact Person: Local Contact Person: John Wirtz
Telephone #: (312) 384-6329 ext.
Env. Contact: E-Mail: john.wirtz@jacobs.com
Telephone #: Title/Company: Project Engineer/Jacobs Eng.

- F. ☐ Update Entire Project
☒ Addendum Only

☐ Field Sign Off (Bio & Cultural Only) ☒ Received in CO 12/07/2011

BIOLOGICAL & WETLAND
RESOURCES

NO SURVEY OR FURTHER
COORDINATION REQUIRED

Thomas C. Brooks 12-16-11
SIGNED JMW DATE



Applicant: Illinois Department of Transportation-Central Office
Contact: Janel Veile

IDNR Project #: 1206330
Alternate #: 11761 & 11761A
Date: 12/16/2011

Address: 2300 South Dirksen Parkway
 Room 330
 Springfield, IL 62764

Project: CREATE* EW2-P2 Renewal and Addendum A
Address: N/A, N/A

Description: This submittal is a renewal as well as a submittal for Addendum A. Original project cleared via NRRT. This is a CREATE project. ESR limits have been expanded outside the original area surveyed. No new ROW. No instream work. Unknown amount of tree removal. NWI wetlands were identified and are all outside the project limits. Therefore, there will be no wetland impacts as a result of this project.

Natural Resource Review Results

Consultation for Endangered Species Protection and Natural Areas Preservation (Part 1075)

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database contains no record of State-listed threatened or endangered species, Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites, dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves, or registered Land and Water Reserves in the vicinity of the project location.

Consultation is terminated. This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the project has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary. Termination does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement.

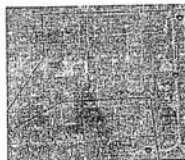
Location

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the location submitted for the project.

County: Cook

Township, Range, Section:

37N, 13E, 2	37N, 13E, 3
37N, 14E, 3	37N, 14E, 4
37N, 14E, 9	37N, 14E, 10
38N, 13E, 13	38N, 13E, 14
38N, 13E, 23	38N, 13E, 24
38N, 13E, 25	38N, 13E, 26
38N, 13E, 34	38N, 13E, 35
38N, 13E, 36	38N, 14E, 19
38N, 14E, 20	38N, 14E, 21
38N, 14E, 22	38N, 14E, 27
38N, 14E, 28	38N, 14E, 29



IDNR Project Number: 1206330

38N, 14E, 30 38N, 14E, 31
 38N, 14E, 32 38N, 14E, 33
 38N, 14E, 34

IL Department of Natural Resources Contact
 Steve Hamer
 217-785-5500
 Division of Ecosystems & Environment

Local or State Government Jurisdiction
 IL Department of Transportation
 Janel Veille
 2300 South Dirksen Parkway
 Room 330
 Springfield, Illinois 62764

Disclaimer

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database cannot provide a conclusive statement on the presence, absence, or condition of natural resources in Illinois. This review reflects the information existing in the Database at the time of this inquiry, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, compliance with applicable statutes and regulations is required.

Terms of Use

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1. The IDNR EcoCAT website was developed so that units of local government, state agencies and the public could request information or begin natural resource consultations on-line for the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act, Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act, and Illinois Interagency Wetland Policy Act. EcoCAT uses databases, Geographic Information System mapping, and a set of programmed decision rules to determine if proposed actions are in the vicinity of protected natural resources. By indicating your agreement to the Terms of Use for this application, you warrant that you will not use this web site for any other purpose.
2. Unauthorized attempts to upload, download, or change information on this website are strictly prohibited and may be punishable under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act of 1986 and/or the National Information Infrastructure Protection Act.
3. IDNR reserves the right to enhance, modify, alter, or suspend the website at any time without notice, or to terminate or restrict access.

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Privacy

EcoCAT generates a public record subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. Otherwise, IDNR uses the information submitted to EcoCAT solely for internal tracking purposes.



Illinois Department of Transportation Memorandum

To: George E. Weber
From: John D. Baranzelli By: Thomas C. Brooks
Subject: Biological Resources Review *Thomas C. Brooks*
Date: 10-08-2013

CREATE
Cook County
T38N-R13E S36
Seq. no. 11761
75th Street Corridor Improvement Project
Project description. Two rail-rail grade separations and one highway-rail grade separation.

Review for Illinois Endangered Species Protection and Illinois Natural Areas Preservation – Part 1075

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database contains no record of State-listed threatened or endangered species, Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites, dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves, or registered Land and Water Reserves in the vicinity of the project location. Therefore, consultation under Part 1075 is terminated.

This review for compliance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075 is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered; the proposed improvement is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the proposed improvement has not been implemented within two years of the date of this memorandum, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new review will be necessary.

Review for Illinois Interagency Wetland Policy Act – Part 1090

The National Wetlands Inventory does not show wetlands in the vicinity of the project location. Therefore, the wetland review under Part 1090 is terminated.

Review for Endangered Species Act - Section 7

See attached list of endangered, threatened, proposed and candidate species and proposed and designated critical habitat that may be present within the county in which the proposed project is located. We cross-referenced the preferred habitat of each listed species with our knowledge of the project area and determined that listed species and critical habitat are not present.

Attachments—USFWS species' county list

County	Species	Status	Habitat
Phone: (618) 997-3344, ext. 340 FAX: (618) 997-8961 e:mail Marion@fws.gov	Eastern prairie fringed orchid (<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>)	Threatened	Mesic to wet prairies
Clay Field Office to Contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Marion Illinois Sub-Office 8588 Route 148 Marion, Illinois 62959 Phone: (618) 997-3344, ext. 340 FAX: (618) 997-8961 e:mail Marion@fws.gov	Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)	Endangered	Caves, mines (hibernacula); small stream corridors with well developed riparian woods; upland forests (foraging)
	Eastern prairie fringed orchid (<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>)	Threatened	Mesic to wet prairies
Clinton Field Office to Contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Marion Illinois Sub-Office 8588 Route 148 Marion, Illinois 62959 Phone: (618) 997-3344, ext. 340 FAX: (618) 997-8961 e:mail Marion@fws.gov	Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)	Endangered	Caves, mines (hibernacula); small stream corridors with well developed riparian woods; upland forests (foraging)
	Piping plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Endangered	May be present in Clinton County during migration.
	Eastern massasauga (<i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>)	Candidate	Graminoid dominated plant communities (fens, sedge meadows, peatlands, wet prairies, open woodlands, and shrublands)
	Eastern prairie fringed orchid (<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>)	Threatened	Mesic to wet prairies
	Lakeside daisy (<i>Hymenoxys acaulis</i> var. <i>glabra</i>)	Threatened	Dry rocky prairies
Coles Field Office to Contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Marion Illinois Sub-Office 8588 Route 148 Marion, Illinois 62959 Phone: (618) 997-3344, ext. 340 FAX: (618) 997-8961 e:mail Marion@fws.gov	Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)	Endangered	Caves, mines (hibernacula); small stream corridors with well developed riparian woods; upland forests (foraging)
	Snuffbox (<i>Epioblasma triquetra</i>)	Endangered	Small to medium-sized creeks and some larger rivers, in areas with a swift current
	Eastern prairie fringed orchid (<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>)	Threatened	Mesic to wet prairies
Cook	Piping plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Endangered	Lakeshore beaches



County	Species	Status	Habitat
Field Office to Contact: USFWS Chicago Illinois FO 1250 South Grove, Suite 103 Barrington, Illinois 60010 (847) 381-2253 e:mail Chicago@fws.gov Cathy_Pollack@fws.gov	Eastern massasauga (<i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>)	Candidate	Graminoid dominated plant communities (fens, sedge meadows, peatlands, wet prairies, open woodlands, and shrublands)
	Hine's emerald dragonfly (<i>Somatochlora hineana</i>)	Endangered	Spring fed wetlands, wet meadows and marshes
	Hine's emerald dragonfly (<i>Somatochlora hineana</i>)	Critical Habitat Designated	Go here for a map and written description of the areas designated as Critical Habitat (PDF)
	Eastern prairie fringed orchid (<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>) Go here for specific guidance on how to determine whether this species is present on a site.	Threatened	Moderate to high quality wetlands, sedge meadow, marsh, and mesic to wet prairie
	Leafy-prairie clover (<i>Dalea foliosa</i>)	Endangered	Prairie remnants on thin soil over limestone
	Mead's milkweed (<i>Asclepias meadii</i>)	Threatened	Late successional tallgrass prairie, tallgrass prairie converted to hay meadow, and glades or barrens with thin soil
	Prairie bush clover (<i>Lespedeza leptostachya</i>)	Threatened	Dry to mesic prairies with gravelly soil
Crawford Field Office to Contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Marion Illinois Sub-Office 8588 Route 148 Marion, Illinois 62959 Phone: (618) 997-3344, ext. 340 FAX: (618) 997-8961 e:mail Marion@fws.gov	Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)	Endangered	Caves, mines (hibernacula); small stream corridors with well developed riparian woods; upland forests (foraging)
	Rabbitsfoot (<i>Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica</i>)	Proposed as Threatened	Wabash River
	Eastern prairie fringed orchid (<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>)	Threatened	Mesic to wet prairies
Cumberland Field Office to Contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Marion Illinois Sub-Office 8588 Route 148 Marion, Illinois 62959 Phone: (618) 997-3344, ext. 340 FAX: (618) 997-8961 e:mail Marion@fws.gov	Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)	Endangered	Caves, mines (hibernacula); small stream corridors with well developed riparian woods; upland forests (foraging)
	Snuffbox (<i>Epioblasma triquetra</i>)	Endangered	Small to medium-sized creeks and some larger rivers, in areas with a swift current
	Eastern prairie fringed orchid (<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>)	Threatened	Mesic to wet prairies



Illinois Department of Transportation

Memorandum

To:	Emily R. Kushto	Attn:
From:	John D. Baranzelli	By: Thomas C. Brooks
Subject:	Natural Resources Review	<i>Thomas C. Brooks</i>
Date:	01-30-2014	

Create
Cook County
T37N-R14E Section 3
Sequence number 11761B

Project description. Addendum B is for noise and vibration impacts to buildings. Also expanded limits in three areas that include one additional bridge (Indiana Ave) and two buildings.

There will be 1.6 acres of land acquisition for addendum B. There will be 43 trees removed. No in-stream work. Land cover in the vicinity of the proposed improvement is primarily urban residential.

Review for Illinois Endangered Species Protection and Illinois Natural Areas Preservation – Part 1075

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database contains no record of State-listed threatened or endangered species, Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites, dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves, or registered Land and Water Reserves in the vicinity of the project location. **Therefore, consultation under Part 1075 is terminated.**

This review for compliance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075 is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered; the proposed improvement is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the proposed improvement has not been implemented within two years of the date of this memorandum, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new review will be necessary.

Review for Illinois Interagency Wetland Policy Act – Part 1090

The National Wetlands Inventory does not show wetlands in the vicinity of the project location. **Therefore, the wetland review under Part 1090 is terminated.**

Review for Endangered Species Act - Section 7

See the attached US Fish and Wildlife Service list of endangered, threatened, proposed and candidate species and proposed and designated critical habitat that may be present within the county in which the proposed project is located. We cross-referenced the preferred habitat of each listed species with our knowledge of the project area and determined that listed species and critical habitat are not present. Should the proposed



improvement be modified or new information indicate listed or proposed species may be affected, consultation or additional coordination should be initiated.

Attachments—USFWS species' county list

Illinois County Distribution

Federally Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate Species

List Revised October 2013

County	Species	Status	Habitat
Cook Field Office to Contact: USFWS Chicago Illinois FO 1250 South Grove, Suite 103 Barrington, Illinois 60010 (847) 381-2253 e:mail Chicago@fws.gov Cathy_Pollack@fws.gov	Northern long-eared bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Proposed as Endangered	Hibernates in caves and mines - swarming in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. Roosts and forages in upland forests and woods.
	Piping plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Endangered	Lakeshore beaches
	Eastern massasauga (<i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>)	Candidate	Graminoid dominated plant communities (fens, sedge meadows, peatlands, wet prairies, open woodlands, and shrublands)
	Hine's emerald dragonfly (<i>Somatochlora hineana</i>)	Endangered	Spring fed wetlands, wet meadows and marshes
	Hine's emerald dragonfly (<i>Somatochlora hineana</i>)	Critical Habitat Designated	Map and written description of the areas designated as Critical Habitat (PDF)
	Rattlesnake-master borer moth (<i>Papaipema eryngii</i>)	Candidate	Undisturbed prairie and woodland openings that contain their only food plant, rattlesnake-master (<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>).
	Eastern prairie fringed orchid (<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>) Go here for specific guidance on how to determine whether this species is present on a site.	Threatened	Moderate to high quality wetlands, sedge meadow, marsh, and mesic to wet prairie
	Leafy-prairie clover (<i>Dalea foliosa</i>)	Endangered	Prairie remnants on thin soil over limestone
	Mead's milkweed (<i>Asclepias meadii</i>)	Threatened	Late successional tallgrass prairie, tallgrass prairie converted to hay meadow, and glades or barrens with thin soil
	Prairie bush clover (<i>Lespedeza leptostachya</i>)	Threatened	Dry to mesic prairies with gravelly soil